

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06502 101949Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00
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/105 W

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R 101940Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7518
INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN "WORKER ACTION DAY" FOR FULL EMPLOY-
MENT

REF: BRUSSELS 6546
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1. THE EUROPEAN WIDE PROTEST AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT ON
APRIL 5 FOUND LITTLE RESPONSE IN THE FRG.
2. DGB PRESIDENT VETTER, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF
THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), PRE-
SENTED A LIST OF UNION PROPOSALS TO RESTORE FULL

EMPLOYMENT TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE PROPOSALS WERE ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BONN ON APRIL 5 AND INCLUDED AN INCREASE IN PURCHASING POWER AND MINIMUM WAGES, EXTENSION OF GENERAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, REDUCTION OF WORKING HOURS, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING INVESTMENT POLICY ON A REGIONAL AND INDUSTRY WIDE BASIS, ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WHEN JOBS ARE LOST DUE TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

3. THE DGB PARTICIPATED IN TWO JOINT RALLIES. ONE IN GELEEN (NETHERLANDS) WAS HELD IN COOPERATION WITH DUTCH AND BELGIAN UNIONS AND FEATURED DGB PRESIDENT VETTER AS MAIN SPEAKER. ANOTHER RALLY WAS HELD IN SAARBRUECKEN ON APRIL 6 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FRENCH CFDT AND FO AND THE LUXEMBOURG CGT.

4. FRG TRADE UNION ACTION APPARENTLY WAS LIMITED TO THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES AND RECEIVED ONLY LOW KEY TREATMENT IN THE PRESS.

5. COMMENT: PROTEST RALLIES HAVE BEEN IN VOGUE DURING RECENT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN THE PUBLISHING AND METAL INDUSTRIES. MORE RALLIES PROBABLY WILL BE ORGANIZED AS OTHER UNIONS COME TO THE TABLE DURING UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS SEASON'S WAGE ROUND. THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW MANY ISSUES WORKERS CAN BE CALLED TO RALLY BEHIND WITHIN RELATIVELY SHORT SPACES OF TIME AND STILL BE EFFECTIVE. THE GERMAN UNIONS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO SAVE THEIR LARGER EFFORTS FOR THE ISSUES THAT WILL BE DECIDED AT THE BARGAINING TABLE.
STOESSEL

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